THE

ATLANTA HAM

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC DECEMBER 2000

ANNUAL ARC HOLIDAY PARTY!

December 7, 2000 7:30pm

J.R.'s Log House

6601 Peachtree Ind. Blvd.

DIRECTIONS:
Take Peachtree Ind north from I285.
Exit Jones Mill/Peactree Corners Cir
Turn left across over Ptree Ind,
J.R.'s Log House on right

BUFFET STYLE MENU: Pulled Pork BBQ, Grilled Chicken, Green Beans, Brunswick Stew, Iced Tea

Cost: $12.50 Adult Students $5.00

Don't let the price keep you away!

HAM OF THE YEAR 2000

Come see who gets the honor this year!

Russ Richardson, AE4NY, is the 1999 winner

The above menu is subject to variation, menu being set at time of publication

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QUICK TIP:

Build a 2-Meter Antenna

Making a two meter vertical antenna for your HT or mobile radio at home. Obtain a brass tube or copper solid wire, cut it to19 1/4 inches long for your center conductor. Then cut four 4 radials 18" inch long, use a so-239 connector. Connect the 18" radials to the ring terminals on the so-239 with small screws and nuts, connect the 19 1/4 inch vertical conductor to the center of so-239 and solder it. Bend the 18" wire radials at 45 degrees and connect coax. Presto; you just made a 1/4 wave antenna.

THE ATLANTA HAM IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE…

YES! The newsletter is now available online on a monthly basis. Members will have the option to get their copy of the Atlanta Ham at **www.saf.com/arc**. This will help conserve club resources.

THE ATLANTA HAM

The Atlanta HAM is the official bulletin of The Atlanta Radio Club serving its members and the Atlanta community. Original articles, art, and photos are welcome. Copyrighted material cannot be printed without permission form the appropriate legal authority. Please include such disclaimers in all materials submitted.

Submit articles:

Atlanta Radio Club
Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 942150
Atlanta, Georgia 31141

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a two-day event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers

Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.2(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates six repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). All our repeaters are undergoing extensive renovations during the summer of 2000. Click here for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of what we plan to have on the air by January 1, 2001.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate three repeaters on 145.35(-), 224.56(-), & 444.45(+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Tim, WK4U, and should also be on the air before January 1, 2001. For pictures of that site, see http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Thursday December 7, 2000 730pm
WHERE: J.R.'s Log House
Peachtree Corners Circle/Peachtree Ind.

W4DOC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

BUFFET STYLE MENU: Pulled Pork, Baked Chicken, Green Beans, Brunswick Stew, Iced Tea
Adults $12.50 Students $5.00
Don't let the price keep you away! Come on down…
***HAM OF THE YEAR** to be announced!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

The biggest and best news in quite some time for the Atlanta Radio Club came on November 2 when we installed the 146.82 antenna *outside* the aluminum top of the Bank of America tower. We hired a contractor to install the antenna on the light deck at the bottom of the gold colored obelisk. Cousins Properties, the manager of the Bank Tower, required us to hire a contractor because of the need for special suits designed to shield RF. The RF on the top at our antenna location is so intense these "RF suits" must be worn to protect anyone working there.

Cousins surprised us the morning of the installation with the requirement that they be named an "Additional Insured" on the club's liability insurance policy. After a flurry of panicked phone calls to our insurance company, we finally received the appropriate paperwork just before lunch. Andy, KD4ABB, was on site coordinating between Cousins and our contractor, and thanks to Andy's efforts the contractor only experienced about an hour of downtime. After this experience I can heartily recommend the ARRL sponsored insurance programs.

All hats are off the Andy for making the antenna installation go smoothly. Not counting his prior planning, he worked from 8:30AM on Friday morning until nearly midnight ensuring all was in peak operating condition. Antennas are the most important part of any radio station, and Andy's effort has caused a huge improvement in signal strength, both on transmit and receive. While one cannot work 146.82 *reliably* with an HT outside 285, one can now work it with a good mobile all over Metro Atlanta. With the upcoming installation of remote receivers, we will expand our "HT" coverage to places outside the perimeter and enjoy an even wider user base. In the meantime be sure to try out the new antenna. You will be impressed. I have already noticed increased activity level on our machine.

My general rule for HT's is to avoid their use inside a car unless I am very close to the intended receiver or using an external antenna. If you try to use an HT more than ten miles away from the intended receiver then you are really pushing things. You must be even closer if the terrain is rough. For example I could not work Kennehoochee's 146.88 machine last week with a HT, because Kennesaw mountain was in the way. I was less than 5 miles from 88's location on Sweat Mountain, but I was due west in the shadow of Kennesaw. I enjoy using an HT running low power from inside my house when working the ARC's 82 machine, but I can see the skyline of Atlanta from my house and I am about 7 miles away.

(Continued on page 6)

The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. BOX 942150
Atlanta, Georgia, 31141

Penn McClatchey, K4PE,
President
404-255-1560
pmm@saf.com

Dick Bently, K2UFT,
Vice President
770-393-2848
dickb@akorn.net

Bill Bass, W4LFC,
Treasurer
770-493-8438
BillW4LFC@juno.com

David Tomaschik, KF4MDV,
Secretary
770-395-0081
kf4mdv@arrl.net

Bill Bass, W4LFC,
Membership Chairman
770-493-8438
BillW4LFC@juno.com

John Talipsky Jr, KA4VQH,
Activities Manager
770-995-6446
johnka4vqh@aol.com

Andy Keels, KD4ABB
Repeater Manager
770-394-9052
andyk@hvbi.com

BAD NEWS: ADSL/VDSL COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU

Source: HamRadioOnline.com

Friday, November 17, 2000

Bad news: Powerline computer networking may becoming to your neighborhood

As previously reported at this web site, numerous industry publications (IEEE, for example) have written about the interference problems to and from ADSL and VDSL high-speed networking products, specifically noting their interference problems with HF radio.

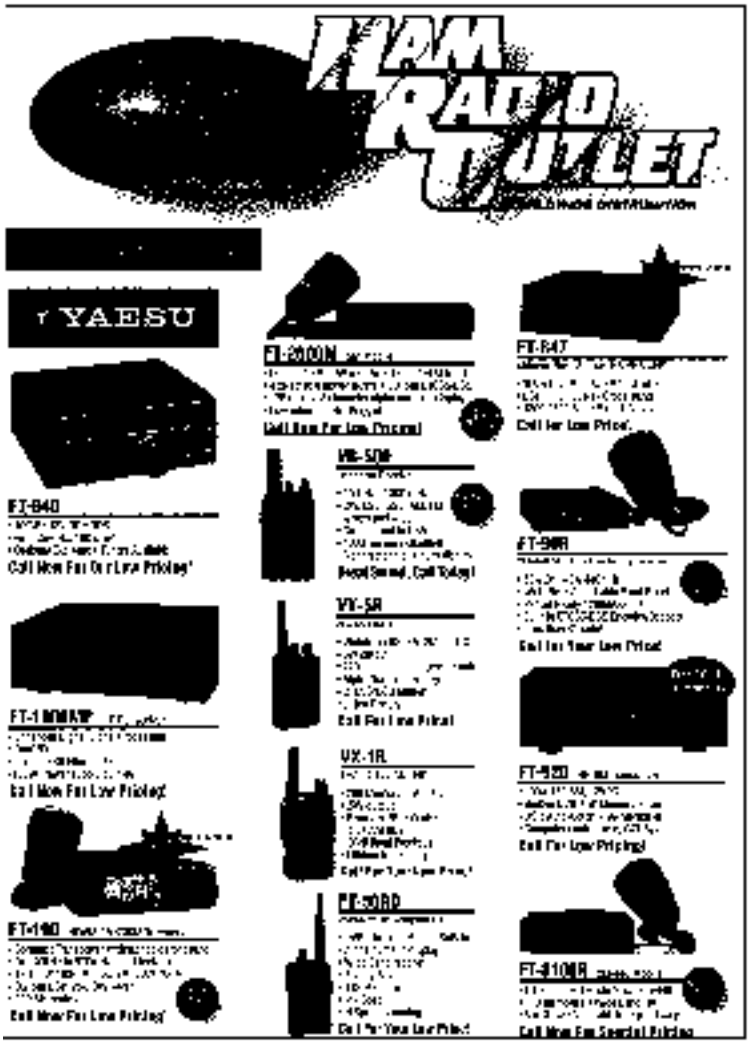
At the Comdex computer industry trade show this week, a consortia of 60 technology companies has announced their plans to roll out "powerline" home networks in 2001. The companies include Motorola, Cisco, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Sharp, Radio Shack, 3Com, Siemens and others. These systems operate by modulating the data signal between 4.3 Mhz to 20.9 Mhz. In theory, the home AC wiring acts as a balanced transmission line. In practice, home wiring is not balanced. (Consider what happens when you use a light switch to activate or deactive one conductor of a 2 conductor AC line to a light - and thereby create an unbalanced line).

The technology uses orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (link to PowerPoint presentation) and is capable of simply tuning out a notch band if a "jammer" appears on frequency. This means that the network will tolerate strong shortwave broadcast or amateur radio signals, but the network itself is likely to emit low level broadband noise of a type that cannot be eliminated with a simple noise filter.

ARRL VEC ANTICIPATES $10 TEST FEE FOR 2001

Source: ARRL Letter Nov 24, 2000

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC plans to set its test fee for calendar year 2001 at $10. The current fee of $6.65 is based on a provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a $4
cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. More recent legislation removed this cap. An FCC announcement of changes in its rules, reflecting the



change in the law,
is expected toward the end of the year.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was envisioned at the time Congress set the original cap.
"We're doing the data entry for all new and upgrade license applications that are handled by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners," Sumner explained. "Originally, we simply reviewed and organized the paperwork and the FCC staff did the data entry. The current system is better for the applicants because they get their licenses faster, but it's also more costly for us."

Jahnke said a $10 ARRL VEC test fee will be formalized as soon as the FCC gives the word that it has made the necessary adjustments to Part 97 to bring it in line with the updated Communications Act. As soon as that happens, the ARRL VEC will make a formal announcement to establish the new fee. Until then, ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants at the 2000 test fee rate of $6.65.

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainseville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second SaturdayCA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, KI4RD (770)978-9160

Third SaturdayCA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth FridayW5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

ACTIVELY SPEAKING – JOHN KA4VQH

Here is a list of upcoming activities for the month of December.

THIS IS A LIGHT SCHEDULE DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

ARC HOLIDAY PARTY: SEE FRONT COVER FOR DETAILS

MONTHIY W4DOC BREAKFAST: None scheduled for this month… Will return in January

LUNCH BUNCH: EVERY FRIDAY 11:30am
WHERE: American Pie Roswell Road Just north of I-285

AROUND TOWN...

1st Tuesday Kenehoochee ARC Meeting 7:30pm
First United Methodist Church Marietta

1st Tuesday Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
6;30pm Old Hickory House . ChambleDunwoody-I285

1st Thursday Atlanta Radio Club Meeting 7:30pm
Details Front Page…

2nd Wednesday North Fulton ARS Dinner 6:30pm

2nd Thursday Alford Memorial RC Dinner 6:00pm
Meeting 7:30pm Elks Lodge Memorial Drive

2nd Saturday East Atlanta LAN . PACKET Meeting 10:00am
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church 4755 N. Ptree Rd Dunwoody

3rd Thursday Gwinnett ARS Meeting 7:30pm
Central First Baptist Church Lawrenceville

Signman of Baton Rouge

The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a SILVER background with BLUE letters and the CLUB LOGO in GOLD. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO; makes this name tag unique.

The Atlanta ARC badge is $8.75 (includes s&h)
All badges include our special high-quality locking safety pin in the base price.

Attachment options include:
Locking safety pin - included with badge
Permanent swivel alligator clip, add $1
Military posts - add $1
Over-the-Pocket with a safety locking pin, add $1.50
Removable alligator adapter (attaches to safety locking pin and can be removed as desired), add $1.75
Extra strong "no holes" magnetic bar, add $2
Magnetic Over-the-Pocket pouch,add $5

879 Castle Kirk Drive • Baton Rouge, LA 70808 USA
(225) 757-1545 Phone • (225) 766-9387 Fax
Toll-Free 888-HAM-TAG1 (888-426-8241)

FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.SAF.COM/ARC

Vanity call sign system… very popular!

Source: www.w5yi.org

The vanity call sign system has issued about 30,000 vanity call signs since it started in 1996. The bulk of the applications are coming in electronically.

The applications show that there has been no let up in your creativity when it comes to arranging letters and numbers and gaming the system.

Most are non-controversial, appropriate, or funny. The cover girl on a recent issue of CQ magazine was---K0GAL. And she was with her grandfather fellows so don't get excited. No problem-I'm sure most of us can understand that a YL in Missouri is a GAL in K0-land. Others include WR0NG, W0ODY to a fellow named Woody, KR1STA to Krista, and KN1GHT to a fellow named Knight. IOTA island hunters seem to have a thing for call signs that end in ISL. Initials are still very popular.

Some licensees are picking combinations of letters and numbers that other licensees find objectionable. Other licensees are letting us know they don't like some of the choices. Some of your fellow licensees have picked call signs that are intended to offend you, incite you, or call attention to anatomical features or various body parts. Licensees that use the vanity call sign system to make a statement or pick a call sign that offends you still receive the protection of the first amendment of the Constitution. We do not censor call signs.

Several of you still are helping out by keeping close watch on the vanity call signs that are being assigned. You are still bringing to our attention instances where the requester is not eligible for what he was assigned. We are still taking back call signs that the requestor was not eligible for.

Speaking of vanity call signs, the Commission released a its annual fee Notice of Proposed Rule Making recently. It proposes to keep the fee for vanity call sign applications at $14.00. The final fee may be different. If adopted, the new fee would become applicable when the new fee schedule becomes effective. The fee you pay is based on the date your application is filed with the Commission.

CLASSIFIEDS

EQUIPMENT

Life Member DON BROWN, W4MY is retiring from HAM RADIO and wishes to liquidate his station. You must visit his station to buy items. No inventory will be provided
Contact: Don 404-365-9695

Yaesu FTdx560 xcvr & manual 560w PEP/500w CW, 80/40/20/15/10 mtrs, 6KD6 (2) finals. Purchased but never powered up or tested $250 OBO
Pete Kwasney, W4CBV,
770-932-0078

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS!

PENN K4PE *CONTINED….*

As for the new equipment, I have finished the configuring the remote that will be installed on Sweat Mountain. I have also completed installation of a remotely variable squelch circuit for the 2M Vertex receiver. I hope to direct my attention to the 440 MHz Skywarn link in December. I believe tying into Skywarn is the single best reason for our upgrade. I am still looking for a volunteer to apply for a grant for the necessary equipment.

GEORGIA POWER
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
DID YOU KNOW AS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, YOU ARE ELEGIBLE TO JOIN...
FOR MORE INFO...
Georgia Power Federal Credit Union at (770) 396-9005 or see www.georgiapowerfcu.org
TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH ARC!

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO BOX 942150
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 31142150

MEETING NOTICE DEC. 7, 2000

DECEMBER 7, 2000 THURSDAY

IT'S A HOLIDAY PARTY!

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

2000 HAM OF THE YEAR

TO BE ANNOUNCED...